

Spring City Area Study  
Spring City  
Sanpete County  
Utah

HABS No U-70  
HABS  
UTAH.

20. SPRING

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. U-70

## SPRING CITY AREA STUDY

HABS

UTAH

20. SPRING

Location:

Spring City  
Sanpete County  
Utah

Geographic Location Code: 43-1850-039

Latitude: 39° 28' N Longitude: 111° 29' W  
to 39° 29' N to 111° 30' W

Statement of  
Significance:

Spring City, a typical Mormon village in its layout, has generous lots, broad streets and a generally spacious character. Its architecture dates primarily from 1860 to 1910 and encompasses a broad spectrum of local building materials including logs, adobe, limestone, clapboard and brick. Declining population has brought the abandonment of many structures; there has been little new construction since World War I. The many remaining buildings create a remarkably complete impression of the late nineteenth century milieu.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION:

## A. Physical History and Historical Events:

Spring City is situated on Canal Creek, fifteen miles northeast of Manti, Utah. It was settled in the spring of 1852 by James Allred, James T. S. Allred, and fifteen families sent from Salt Lake City to colonize the Sanpete valley. They proceeded at once to build the typical settlement fort for protection from Indian attack, and to farm the surrounding lands. They named the settlement Springtown, which remained as the official title until February 11, 1870 when it was incorporated as a city and renamed Spring City.

The first season of settlement was seriously challenged by Indian attacks, and the pioneers were finally forced to abandon their fort and move to Manti for protection. The Indians burned their fort and dwellings on January 6, 1854, and the colonists began the settlement of Ephraim, Utah. Another attempt was made to colonize their original settlement in 1859, which was more successful, although they were forced to abandon the settlement for a while again in 1866 due to the persistently hostile Indians. The leaders in the resettlement were George Blair, R. N. Allred and C. G. Larsen.

As matters settled somewhat, the townspeople turned to the pursuits of agriculture, stockraising, wool growing, lumbering and other rural pursuits. Oolite stone was quarried for shipment to Salt Lake City and the larger settlements.

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In 1890 the Rio Grande Western Railroad extended its line from Thistle southward to Spring City, bringing new markets to the settlement, and promoting further expansion. The first sidewalk paving was done in 1913 and State Highway 89 was paved through town in the summer of 1917. Samuel Willis Allred and Amundsen and Olsen were the first sidewalk contractors.

In 1901 the Spring City Light and Power Company was organized to install and equip an electric light and power plant for the city. The owners were Jacob Johnson, Simon Beck, J. M. Johnson and Emil Erickson, also shareholders in the Spring City Roller Mills. The power plant was housed in a room of the flour mill building; Stanley Crawford of Manti was the engineer in charge. In 1916 Spring City took over the light plant and moved it to the mouth of Oak Creek Canyon.

Water was piped into town from mountain springs in 1934. Louis Barney built the first saw mills in the late 1850's and early 1860's, and in 1909 John Larsen built a shingle mill at the mouth of Oak Creek Canyon, which was destroyed by a flood in 1915. A mill was purchased in Fairview, Utah by Larsen and moved to Black Canyon. It was still being operated in 1947.

In 1868 the first co-op store was organized, and in 1880 was incorporated. It was a financial success until destroyed by fire in 1934.

B. Sources of Information:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Sanborn Map of Spring City, May, 1917, Sanborn Map Company, New York City.

2. Bibliography:

Daughters of Utah Pioneers of Sanpete County.  
These Our Fathers, Art City Publishing Company,  
Spring City, 1947.

Lever, W. H. History of Sanpete and Emery Counties,  
Tribune Job Printing Company, 1898.